

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	9586
Project Name:	Contributing to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Target Setting by Demonstrating the LDN Approach in the Upper Sakarya Basin for Scaling up at National Level
Countr(ies):	Türkiye
Implementing Agency:	FAO

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Contributing to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Target Setting by Demonstrating the LDN Approach in the Upper Sakarya Basin for Scaling up at National Level

Country

Türkiye

GEF ID

9586

Implementing Agency

FAO

Executing Entity

Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs (MFWA),
Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MFAL)

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

FSP

PIR Submission

9/12/2025

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2025 , 5th PIR

Objective

The project objective is to develop a model for LDN target setting, planning, and decision-making at national level and for demonstration in the Upper Sakarya basin.

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Satisfactory

Development Objective

Highly Satisfactory

Overall risk

Low Risk

Project Financing

2,615,499.00

Cumulative Disbursement

2,262,978.93

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

1/25/2019

Agency Approval

5/2/2019

Implementation Start 8/15/2019	First Disbursement 8/29/2019
Expected MTR	Actual MTR 2/2/2023
Expected Completion 12/31/2025	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

Some of the following activities, which continued in the previous reporting period, were completed in the first six months of this reporting period.

- Informative meetings, awareness-raising activities, institutional-level training courses, national and international LDN Symposium
- Certified herders training, farmer exposure visits for demonstration of best practices on SLM and SFM, mass media campaigns on LDN
- Information dissemination meetings with the central administrative and strategic planners of LDN-related institutions and the administrative and planners of local institutions, information dissemination meetings with stakeholders and information dissemination meetings with NGOs
- LDN target setting using the existing land degradation monitoring systems at national and sub-national level (TCM/TOK/POS/DEMIS)
- Monitoring, testing and analyzing sub-indicators of climate factors of the TCM and Soil Organic Carbon (TOK) Models in the Upper Sakarya Basin
- Implementation of sustainable pasture management practices and implementation of the best SFM on forest areas
- Technical assistance on climate-friendly agricultural/forestry practices, Integration of measures and approaches for climate resilience into SLM and SFM practices and monitoring and evaluating climate resilience of SLM and SFM measures using SHARP like assessment
- Analyzing socio-economic indicators for a new input for LDN
- Development of one bankable project for the LDN fund
- Preparation of a National LDN guideline.

The final evaluation of the project continues with the process of collecting of the stakeholders's comments on the report.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

The challenge that the project encountered in this reporting period is the operationalization of household biogas systems. It has been observed in the project sites that there is a general concern among users regarding the operation of the systems due to problems encountered during use. For this reason, many users have turned off the power supply and turned off the system. To overcome this challenge, following the field visit with the participation of representatives from contractor, FAO, and Provincial Directorates of Agriculture and Forestry—a meeting was held. During this meeting, the issues related to the biogas systems and potential solutions were discussed and resulted that contractor promptly adopts a solution-driven strategy aimed at optimizing system performance. Furthermore, in order to enhance user adaptation, it is recommended to deploy increased on-site guidance, training, and support mechanisms.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

Profile	Stakeholder name	Type of partnership	Progress, results & Challenges on Stakeholder's Engagement
Government Institutions	General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion	Lead institute/Chair of PSC	Provide strategic guidance and mobilize required technical expertise/resources
Government Institutions	General Directorate of Forestry	Member of PSC	Provide strategic guidance and mobilize required technical expertise/resources
Government Institutions	General Directorate of Agricultural Researches and Policies	Member of PSC	Provide strategic guidance and mobilize required technical expertise/resources
Government Institutions	General Directorate of Agricultural Reform	Project partner/Member of PSC	Provide strategic guidance and mobilize required technical expertise/resources
Others	FAO Representation in Turkey	Implementing agency	Implement project according to FAO and GEF policies and guidelines
Government Institutions	5th Regional Directorate-Afyonkarahisar of MAF	Local partner	Supported local project activities
Government Institutions	9. Regional Directorate-Ankara of MAF	Local partner	Supported local project activities
Government Institutions	Ankara Regional Directorate of Forestry of GDF	Local partner	Supported local project activities
Government Institutions	Eskişehir Regional Directorate of Forestry of GDF	Local partner	Supported local project activities
Government Institutions	Kütahya Regional Directorate of Forestry of GDF	Local partner	Supported local project activities
Government Institutions	3.Regional Directorate-Eskisehir of General Directorate of State Hidrolic Works	Local partner	Supported local project activities
Government Institutions	5.Regional Directorate-Ankara of General Directorate of State Hidrolic Works	Local partner	Supported local project activities
Government Institutions	3.Regional Directorate-Ankara of General Directorate of Meteorology	Local partner	Supported local project activities
Government Institutions	9.Regional Directorate-Ankara of General Directorate of Meteorology	Local partner	Supported local project activities
Government Institutions	Directorate of Central Anatolia Forestry Research Institute-Ankara	Stratejic partner	Providing technical expertise
Government Institutions	Directorate of Forest Trees and Seeds Breeding Research Institute-Ankara	Stratejic partner	Providing technical expertise
Government	Directorate of Forest Soil and		

D. Gender Equality

Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe progress and results achieved during this reporting period.
a. Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources	Yes	Women farmers were targeted in project activities conducted in the project sites and encouraged to benefit from project inputs. There was a strong focus on women in agriculture mostly through the Component 3 activities with very good success.
b. Improving women's participation and decision making	Yes	The project continued the support of women cooperatives by including in the project activities.
c. generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	Yes	The cooperatives supported by the project in previous periods, continued generating socio-economic benefits to the women and will continue providing the benefits in post project period.
Any other good practices on gender		N/A

E. Knowledge Management

Knowledge management and Learning (KML): Does the project have a KML strategy?	Yes
If YES, what is the implementation progress? In your answer, please describe how the project is fostering knowledge sharing and learning among stakeholders at national and sub-national level.	The project disseminated its results through trainings and informative meetings held with the institutions and NGOs at basin level and national level. The project and government also develop a web-based platform called CEM Academia to disseminate the project results at national and international level.
If NO, how does the project identify, collect and document good practices?	n/a
Please list good practices, including key-technical and/or institutional innovations, from the project thus far.	n/a
Communication strategy: Does the project have a communication strategy?	Yes
Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this fiscal year.	Since the project is in its closing phase and no activity has been carried out during this period that could serve as a focus for communication, it has been a relatively weak period in terms of communication efforts. The biogas instolation process and the work on the training portal, which was planned as a project activity, are still ongoing. Within this framework, communication activities will be carried out once these two components are completed.
Human-interest story: Please share a human-interest story from your project, focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's livelihoods while contributing to achieving the expected Global Environmental Benefits. Please indicate any Socio-economic Co-benefits that were generated by the project. Include at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.	n/a
Please provide links to related website, social media account	Since no meetings, trainings, or workshops took place as part of the project activities during this period, no public relations or content activities were conducted on social media or the project website.
Please provide a list of publications, leaflets, video materials, newsletters, or other communications assets published on the web, if any.	Since the project is in its closing phase, no videos, brochures, or communication materials have been produced.
Please indicate the Communication and/or knowledge management focal point's name and contact details.	Şafak Toros / safak.toros@fao.org

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	
Components and Cost	
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	The project duration was extended until 31 December 2025
Executing Entity	
Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	
Safeguards	
Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	
others	

IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Yalnizcam, Beypazari, Ankara	39.943218	31.75252	

Location Description:

01-Ankara Project pilot site/micro basin

Activity Description:

Demonstrations of SLM and SFM best practices in forests, rangelands and croplands that provide carbon benefits & Introduction of gender sensitive sustainable livelihood strategies

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
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Nasreddin Hoca, Sivrihisar, Eskisehir	39.530429	31.654726	
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Location Description:

02-Nasreddin Hoca Project pilot site/micro basin

Activity Description:

Demonstrations of SLM and SFM best practices in forests, rangelands and croplands that provide carbon benefits & Introduction of gender sensitive sustainable livelihood strategies

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Kertek, Sivrihisar, Eskisehir	39.484306	31.383931	

Location Description:

03-Porsuk River Basin project pilot site/micro basin, Eskisehir

Activity Description:

Demonstrations of SLM and SFM best practices in forests, rangelands and croplands that provide carbon benefits & Introduction of gender sensitive sustainable livelihood strategies

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Sofca, Merkez, Kutahya	39.622715	30.160739	

Location Description:

04-Kutahya Project pilot site/micro basin

Activity Description:

Demonstrations of SLM and SFM best practices in forests, rangelands and croplands that provide carbon benefits & Introduction of gender sensitive sustainable livelihood strategies

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Yarali, Polatli, Ankara	39.296995	32.056445	

Location Description:

05-Polatli Project pilot site/micro basin

Activity Description:

Demonstrations of SLM and SFM best practices in forests, rangelands and croplands that provide carbon benefits & Introduction of gender sensitive sustainable livelihood strategies

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document	
Document Category M and E Document	Title GEFID9586_2025PIR_FAO_Turkiye